THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has informed that the Joint Venture in which the company is a partner has found oil in an onland block in Masila Basin in Yemen.

(b) As per RIL's preliminary estimates, its share of reserves is in the range of 40-60 million barrels of recoverable oil.

(c) The leads obtained from the discoveries are to be pursued and techno-commercial viability established before commercial production can commence, for which no time frame can be laid down.

Establishment of octane testing centres in Chhattisgarh

2970. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Chhattisgarh has requested any financial assistance for establishment of stationary as well as mobile octane testing centres in Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the request has been accepted by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, Indian Oil Corporation has a notified Static Laboratory at Nishatpura (Bhopal) with Octane testing facility, which caters the need of Chhattisgarh area. There are 2 Mobile Labs under operation in the State of Chhattisgarh. These Mobile Labs are not equipped with Octane testing facility.

Criteria for Allotment of LPG Agencies

2971. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the criteria for allotment of LPG agencies and the number of agencies in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether in many cases the agencies are storing far more cylinders than the approved capacity and many of them are engaged